



Reaching Heights

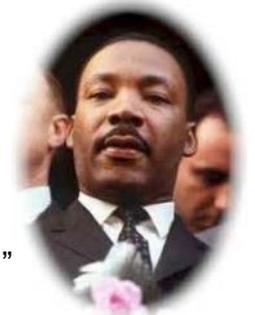
A Newsletter of Heights Christian Church

VOLUME 26, NO. 7

January, 2016



- January 3** **2nd Sunday of Christmas** - "And the Word became flesh and lived among us."
- January 10** **Epiphany Sunday** - "...and they knelt down and paid him homage."
Second Hour Studies will resume January 10th with:
Bible Study with Joe "Genesis for Normal People"
Topic Study "A Realistic Version for World Peace"
- January 17** **Martin Luther King Jr. Sunday**
"...and his disciples believed in him." Rev. Joan Brown Campbell
Minister Michele Moreland, and Pastor Roger will share the message.
- January 24** **3rd Sunday of Epiphany** - "Today this scripture has been fulfilled..."
- January 31** **Family Fifth Sunday**



DAISY KAHN TO VISIT HCC **Thursday, January 14—7-9 p.m.**



The Community Advisory Board will be hosting a forum featuring *Daisy Kahn*, who is Founder and Executive Director of the Women's Islamic Initiative in Spirituality & Equality (WISE), a women-led organization committed to peace building, equality and justice for Muslims around the globe. Mrs. Kahn is frequent speaker and lectures across the country at conferences, universities and religious institutions. She is the recipient of numerous awards, most notably the "Edinburgh Peace Award," the Clinton Global Initiative "Commitment to Action."

Mrs. Kahn is currently spearheading a 200-page community-led guide, aimed at mobilizing Muslims to take a stand against violent extremism and develop narratives of peace.

The program will begin and end with inspirational musical numbers by the Duffy Liturgical Chorus and Dance Ensemble emphasizing the importance of understanding all cultures in our diverse society.

A reception in the Campbell Room will follow where you can meet and greet our participants. Bring your friends for this important event to kick off Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr's celebration weekend.

Also, The Community Advisory Board along with the Peace and Justice Committee is calling ALL writers, poets, artists and photographers to contribute to an Anthology of your original writings, art and photography reflecting on themes of peace, justice, compassion and community building.

Digital works can be submitted by e-mail to: specialprojecthcc@gmail.com or submissions may be left in the church office. **Deadline for submissions is extended to Jan. 15, 2016.** The Peace and Justice Committee will then review the material and prepare it for printing in our *Anthology for Peace* to be ready by March of 2016 for sale. Give us your most creative thoughts and art forms and we will do the rest. You will then be in print! Wow!

Along The Path...



I am experiencing a rather strange sense of time at the moment. I am writing this for the January newsletter and it is just barely mid December. So while I would typically be writing at the very end of the month and looking forward to the coming month, you will be reading this (assuming you have time during this busiest of seasons) before Christmas with the most significant events of the current month yet to take place. So I am caught in a "not yet" but "already" kind of moment.

Which is a little like this season that we are experiencing (have experienced?) when we are waiting for/remembering the coming of God into the world. And very much like the ongoing reality of our faith in which we experience the coming and also already arrived Kingdom of God.

In many ways our own church is also in the midst of a strange sense of time. Over the past 12 months we have celebrated the arrival of a large influx of funds from the sale of Campbell Court to underwrite new ministry efforts. Yet, at the same time, we have been challenged by the reality that our ability to supplement our operational budget from Endowment Funds was drawing to a close.

So while we were organizing those funds and beginning new ministry initiatives there were questions to be answered about how we would continue to fund the existing ministries of the church. Thanks to your generous pledges and dedication to HCC the way ahead looks clearer and brighter. The Finance Committee is finalizing a workable and balanced budget and new ministries are taking shape and bearing fruit as we continue God's work in our community and beyond.

As we celebrate this glorious season and enter this hopeful New Year we can join with Zechariah in proclaiming, "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them!" (Luke 1:68) **Happy New Year!**

...from your Prayer Ministry



By the time you are reading this, the Christmas lights have dimmed, there might still be some cookie crumbs, and surprise, a new year has started. What a great plan--a clean slate to allow us to start new. But wait! Remember the waiting for a "new coming", a "new awareness of the presence of the Son of God? We need to take the message of Christmas we have heard: Hope, Love, Peace and Joy, into this New Year. Prayer can be a big part of this New Year. God is always present and willing to hear you. Listen -- talk to him -- then listen some more. Good things happen. It doesn't always come in an instant but you will know and recognize that something new has happened. Sometimes you just have to give yourself some time to recognize the presence, the voice of God. Then be sure to thank Him. Let the New Year be a chance to add some prayer time to your life.

'til next time, Christmas blessings of peace and calm be with all of us.

BECAUSE YOU CARE **Illness-Surgery-Hospitalization**

Allen Crowley	Jesse Hall	C.D./Lois Clark
Shirley Reading	Lisa Peabody	Joe Feudi
Janelle Eccleston	Patty Monroe	Alma G. Jones
"Cas" Castleberry	Lyubov Nikolenko	Henry Sharpley
Nancy Wilson	Dorothy Mathis	Peggy Yeager
Joe/Barbara Tolley	Sidney Mallory	
Paul/Shirley Hummel	John/Carmen Hassel	



As always, Roger, Dale, Mike, Rosie, and Kese, want to express their gratitude for the kind and generous expressions of affection and appreciation from the congregation. Thanks for an assortment of greeting and gifts from the congregation and Elders. It is a pleasure to have the opportunity to serve the members of Heights Christian Church.

MODERATOR'S MUSINGS

*I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me,
just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep.*

John 10:14-15



Happy New Year! Once again we know that Christ has been born to us! The star has shined, the shepherds have been struck with awe, the Magi have travelled and shared their gifts and we are now in the darkness of winter, not alone, but with the light of Christ within us to banish the darkness. Like Christ, we know God and God knows us. It is important to maintain focus on who we are and whose we are. This knowledge will lead us in the days to come!

I am grateful for so much as we enter this new year! As a congregation, we have followed Christ's model and "tended the flock" with *Krafty Kids Kare* days, gifts for *Family Promise*, caroling at *Campbell Court* and a very meaningful series of daily meditation thoughts for the Advent season. Our stewardship campaign has reported amazing results, moving us closer to sustaining mission and ministry here at HCC with ever-reducing draws on Endowment Fund resources. Many, many sincere thanks to each of you for your help in these activities.

Now is the time to seize new opportunities for fellowship and service in the next quarter of the year. The Stewardship Committee is looking at "stewardship of one's self" as the focus for the upcoming quarter, following stewardship of God's world and stewardship of financial resources in the first two quarters of the program year. The Capital Resources Committee has received approval from the Trustees to begin renewal and renovation of the Campbell Room. A committee, chaired by Nancy Carpenter, will look into a fresh décor for the room, with repainting to begin during Lent. The hope is that new opportunities for community and congregational use of the room may become more viable. Nancy will be aided by Lynda Ackerman, Jan Everett, Donita Singerman and Don Troha.

It is an exciting time in the life of Heights Christian Church. We know we are God's people with responsibility to tend to God's flock. In the coming days, continue to pray for vision, insight and inspiration for our life together. Then share your thoughts so that we can boldly act in faith, always together!

STEWARDSHIP

"Thankfulness is the beginning of gratitude. Gratitude is the completion of thankfulness. Thankfulness may consist merely of words. Gratitude is shown in acts."

*Henri Frederic Amiel,
19th century philosopher and poet*



The Stewardship and Finance Committees would like to thank the congregation for their pledge support for FY-2016. As you know, we no longer have enough dollars to withdraw from the endowment fund. Pledges for the 2016 to date totals \$139,000 up from \$126,000 for 2015. We are also happy to welcome six new pledging families.

Your pledges show us you are committed to the success of Heights Christian Church and its missions. We would also like to express our heartfelt thanks to many of you who tirelessly share your time and talents to participate in the many committees that not only keep HCC running but further our mission to the community around us.

2016 will bring us challenges but will also bring us the love of God, which in turn we should share and become ambassadors of faith to those we meet.

Jane, Valencia, Carl, Larry, Neil

MISSIONS MINISTRY

The *Krafty Kids Kare* event was small in numbers but BIG fun resonated throughout Fellowship Hall and the Nursery School.

The kids readily engaged in the creative crafts prepared by Donita Singerman. In the kitchen, oh my, not sure who had the most flour down the front of their clothes, Lynn Johnson, Dahlia Cummings, Lauren, a high school student, or the kids. The little ones did a fantastic creative design with the blocks with Lynda Ackerman as their supportive guide. Lloyd Ackerman and his side kick Nick, also a high school student, were in constant motion playing games that the kids absolutely loved. Heights Christian received high marks from the children and their parents.

A basket will be located at church entrances to collect items for Refugee Kits beginning January 24th. More information will appear in our Sunday bulletin in January.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

10:00 a.m. Worship Service
11:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship
11:30 a.m. Education Hour

(Nursery & Preschool care provided)

STAFF

Minister *Rev. Roger D. Osgood*
Assistant Minister *Min. Michele Moreland*
Minister of Outreach *Rev. Joan Brown Campbell*
Director of Music *Dale Hukill*
Director of Gospel Music *Willie J. Wright, Jr.*
Office Manager *Kese Webb*
Facilities Coordinator *Mike Faust*
Childcare *Rosie Scott*

OFFICERS

Moderator *Jane Troha*
Vice Moderator *Valencia McMillan*
Secretary *Grace Loudenstein*
Treasurer *Neil Chase*
Assistant Treasurers *Mike Singerman*
 Jim Donald

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Or find us on facebook at HeightsCC

HOLIDAY HELP KRAFTY KIDS KARE



Cookie Baking



Fun Had by All!



Amber Mehring's Baptism

SUNDAY DECEMBER

20TH

*Morning
Worship*



TTB Concert



"Angels Artwork—created during the Ties That Bind Holiday Concert"